

WE notice a strange melodrama which was, on Monday last, played in the House of Commons; because it illustrates remarkably well the ignorance of even educated men concerning the phases of a lunatic's mind, and also what would seem to be a defect in our laws affecting lunacy. A gentleman, feeling conscious of his weakened mental condition, places himself voluntarily under medical control, and enters an asylum, fortified with the certificates of two physicians, who declare him to be dangerous. On the occasion of an exciting vote in the House of Commons, he quits his seclusion, and suddenly appears amongst his colleagues and gives his vote. The impropriety of the proceeding is self-evident; but it was defended and reprobated, as far as we can judge, purely from a political point of view—the side which received the unfortunate gentleman's vote backing, and the other side blaming, the transaction. Some members ridiculed the idea of insanity, because the gentleman had conversed most rationally with them; others said, that in the interval of his residence in the asylum he had fully recovered his reason.

"Did the House collect," said Mr. Malins, "that my hon. friend was sent to Dr. Forbes Winslow's asylum, under a certificate that he was dangerous to himself and others, on the 6th of April, and that his vote was not given till the 3rd of May, nearly four weeks afterwards? During that interval Dr. Winslow had permitted Mr. Steuart to come to London, to visit his friends, and, in short, to be treated in every respect as a man of sound mind. If, therefore, the physicians who signed the certificate were right on the 6th of April, it is perfectly plain that a change must have taken place during the month in the mental capacity of Mr. Steuart, or that Dr. Winslow was guilty of great neglect of duty as the keeper of an asylum."

Dr. Winslow, it was stated, strongly urged the gentleman not to go to the House; but we are not told why he did not prevent his going, if he had the power so to do. What seems to us unanswerably to prove that the gentleman should not have been allowed to enter the House is this plain fact, that if, in a fit of mania, he had committed some murderous act, he could not have been dealt with as a responsible individual. If the law does not enable the master of a lunatic asylum to exercise restraint over all the inmates of his asylum, it is manifest that the law is defective.

THE Society of Anthropology of Paris has published its first volume of *Transactions*. The following are the principal contents: On the Ethnology of France, by M. Broca; Observations on Microcephaly, by M. Gratiolet; Communications relating to Human Fossils, by MM. Pouchet, Geoffroy St. Hilaire, etc.; a Report of M. Perrier on the Influence of Consanguinity on the Offspring; Communication by M. Ruz, on the Anthropology of Tahiti; etc.

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be holden in Canterbury, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 23rd, 24th, and 25th days of July.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary*.

Worcester, March 27th, 1861.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN. [Annual.]	Hull Infirmary.	Wednesday, May 23, 1.30 P.M.
SOUTH-WESTERN. [Annual.]	Rooms of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro.	Wednesday, June 5th, 3 P.M.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of this Branch will be held at Liverpool, on Wednesday, June 5, under the presidency of EDWARD BATTY, Esq.

Gentlemen who intend to read papers, are requested to send notice to the Honorary Secretary as early as possible.

A. T. H. WATEES, M.R.C.P., *Hon. Sec.*

Liverpool, May 1st, 1861.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of this Branch was held at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, on Wednesday, May 8th, at 3 P.M. There were present forty-two members and sixteen visitors. The chair was first taken by the retiring President, F. FRX, Esq., of Maidstone, who introduced his successor, G. BOTTOMLEY, Esq., of Croydon.

President's Address. Mr. BOTTOMLEY commenced his address by proposing a vote of thanks to his predecessor; he then thanked the members of the Branch for the honour conferred on him; and, on the part of his colleagues and himself, offered them a hearty welcome. He was happy to say that the members of the South-Eastern Branch had not diminished; but death had removed three valued members—Mr. Stedman, Dr. Plomley, and Mr. Turner. The next subject to which he had to allude was the JOURNAL. The selection of editor by the Committee of Council had been very fortunate. The JOURNAL was now greatly improved, the articles were well written, and the contributions well selected; and he thought the JOURNAL might now stand on a level with the other medical periodicals. Instead of the editor being under an obligation to the members of the Association, they must feel themselves under an obligation to him. He (Mr. Bottomley) trusted the members would increase, so that the time and labour bestowed might be more adequately rewarded. He then briefly alluded to the Medical Act, and observed that the present manner of conducting Poor-law medical relief was surely a disgrace to our country, an injury to the poor, and also to the medical profession. Great credit was due to Mr. Griffin for the time and expense he has given to the subject. The Poor-law Convention worked for several years, and obtained a Committee of the House of Commons to investigate this subject; but that too left off where it began. He believed, if the matter were laid before the Medical Council by the Council of

this Association, something might be done. The subject of vaccination should also be placed before the same Council, to endeavour to obtain an Act that would benefit alike the public and the profession. The past summer of 1860, although unusually wet, was also unusually healthy. This was doubtless owing to the low temperature. Without heat, we are free from many noxious exhalations from the earth; the rain washed away many impurities; and thus the wet and cold season was also the most healthy known for some years past.

Report of Council. Dr. HOLMAN, in the absence of Mr. Peter Martin, the Honorary Secretary, read the following Report.

"In meeting their brother-members of the South-Eastern Branch in this beautiful palace of art and science, the Council have to state that the number of members remains about the same, the losses by withdrawal and death being counterbalanced by the accession of new members. In the present prosperous condition of the Association, which, with nearly restored finances, sends weekly its JOURNAL, reinvigorated by fresh efforts, to the remotest corners of the district, the Council can only express its surprise and regret that there are so many respectable practitioners who are unwilling to join their brethren of the profession in the membership of the only medical association in the kingdom which unites all classes, and through which the voice of the profession can be heard.

"The South-Eastern Branch has to-day to lament the loss of three members who were present at the last anniversary, but who have since been removed by death; and the Council feel that a tribute is due to the memory of Mr. Stedman of Guildford, one of the earliest members and most constant attendant at our meetings, who presided so ably and hospitably over one of our anniversaries as President of the Branch; of Dr. Plomley of Maidstone, whose cooperation had been given to the Association from an early period, and who did much to aid in the cordial reception given to the members of the Branch last year at Maidstone; and of Mr. Turner of Tunbridge Wells, long a zealous member and a frequent attendant at our meetings, whose premature death will find many regrets among those who knew him well.

"At the last general meeting it was determined that a petition should be sent to Parliament by the Branch against the present unfair incidence of the Income Tax. The Secretary accordingly prepared a petition, which was signed by the President of the Branch, and duly presented. The Council congratulate their constituents on the fact that Mr. Hubbard's motion for a committee, having in view a more equitable adjustment of the tax, was carried by a majority of four. This small majority, however, shows the necessity for increased exertion, not only by sending petitions from separate towns and parishes, but by pressing the subject personally on members of Parliament, many of whom would not disregard the expressed wishes of their influential medical friends.

"The Council desire to call attention to the fact that the British Medical Association will meet at Canterbury in July next, for the first time in the south-eastern district; and they urge upon the members of the Branch the propriety of doing all in their power to increase the success of the meeting by their personal attendance when practicable, and by using their influence with their friends, whether members or not of the Association, to assist in giving a worthy reception to those distant members who will on this occasion visit the ancient city of Canterbury. The Council have seen with sincere pleasure the continued success of the district meetings held at Rochester, Maidstone, Gravesend, and Dartford; and they would welcome with much satisfaction the formation of similar meetings in other districts where a sufficient number of members reside, at the same time

believing, as they do, that with more frequent opportunities of meeting, an increased interest would be felt in the prosperity of the Association. They think the experiment might be tried of having a second general meeting of the Branch in the year; and, considering the central position of the Crystal Palace as regards railroads, they recommend that a general meeting of the Branch should be held at that place in the autumn of the present year."

Resolutions. The following resolutions were then unanimously passed.

Mr. THOMAS HECKSTALL SMITH (St. Mary Cray) proposed, and Mr. GOULD (Wateringbury) seconded—

"That the report of the Council now read be received and adopted."

Mr. CORDY BURROWS (Brighton) proposed, and Mr. HUNT (London) seconded—

"That the Annual Meeting of the South-Eastern Branch in 1862 be held at Reigate; and that Mr. Thos. Heckstall Smith, of St. Mary Cray, be requested to fill the office of President, and Mr. Steele of Reigate, and Mr. Smith of Crawley, the office of Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year."

Dr. WESTALL (Croydon) proposed, and Mr. BURTON (Blackheath) seconded—

"That the best thanks of the Association are due to Mr. Fry, President, and Messrs. Hoar and Gould, Vice-Presidents, for their kind exertions on behalf of the Branch during the past year."

Representatives in the General Council. The Secretary having cast up the votes given by voting-papers, it was found that the following were elected members of the General Council:—W. Addison, M.D., F.R.S., Brighton; G. Bottomley, Esq., Croydon; J. C. Burrows, Esq., Brighton; F. Fry, Esq., Maidstone; A. Martin, M.D., Rochester; J. Reid, Esq., Canterbury; W. Sankey, Esq., Dover; E. Westall, M.D., Croydon; J. W. Woodfall, M.D., Maidstone.

Council of the Branch. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Council of the Branch:—J. M. Burton, Esq., Lee; J. Dulvey, Esq., Brompton; W. Hoar, Esq., Maidstone; C. Holman, M.D., Reigate; G. Lowdell, Esq., Brighton; T. Heckstall Smith, Esq., St. Mary Cray; H. Collett, M.D., Worthing; W. Steele, Esq., Reigate; C. M. Thompson, Esq., Westerham.

New Members. The election of the following new members was then confirmed:—

Robert James Rogers, Esq., Sussex County Hospital.
Thomas H. Lowry, M.D., Town Malling.
Frederick B. Hallows, Esq., Red Hill.
Lewis Snythe, M.D., Lewes.
Robert L. Bowles, Esq., Folkestone.
Samuel Solly, Esq., F.R.S., London.
E. A. Parkes, M.D., Rochester.
Thomas Boycott, M.D., Canterbury.
Robert Tassell, Esq., Canterbury.
Robert Martin, M.D., London.
William Soper, Esq., Guy's Hospital.
John Flint South, Esq., F.R.S., Blackheath.
William Carr, Esq., Blackheath.
William J. Harris, Esq., Worthing.
Thomas Gravelly, Esq., Cowfold.

Donation to the Medical Benevolent Fund. Mr. THOS. HECKSTALL SMITH proposed, Mr. BURROWS seconded, and it was resolved—

"That a donation of £10:10 from the funds of the Branch be again given to the Medical Benevolent Fund."

Papers. The following papers were read:—

1. Case of Knot of the Funis, causing Death of the Fetus (with preparation). By W. Sankey, Esq. (Dover).
2. Case of Acute Traumatic Tetanus, with Recovery. By F. Owen, Esq. (Leatherhead).

The Journal. Great satisfaction was universally expressed at the improved condition of the JOURNAL.

The Dinner. The members and visitors dined together at five o'clock, in the saloon in the South Wing.

dred operations, he had seen no other example of it. Setting aside, then, these cases as altogether exceptional, he thought there were few operations in surgery which afforded with so much certainty such complete and permanent relief from serious disease at so small a cost of suffering and risk.

With respect to the treatment of hæmorrhoidal tumours by nitric acid, his experience did not lead him to recommend it for general adoption; but neither was he disposed to condemn it indiscriminately, as some of its opponents had done. No doubt much injury might be done, and had been done, by its careless employment; but he had himself used it in twelve cases, and his objection to it was rather on the score of its inefficiency than on any active injury which he had found to result from it. He believed it to be well adapted for those cases in which there was an abnormally vascular condition of the mucous membrane of the rectum, without the development of large or distinct tumours which could be protruded; but, under the opposite circumstances, repeated applications of the acid were necessary to reduce the diseased parts to the level of the surrounding surface; and the treatment thus occupied a much longer time, was in reality much more severe, and much less likely to be permanently successful, than the operation by the ligature, or that modification of it which he had recommended.

The paper was illustrated by a series of drawings, for which the author said he was indebted to the kindness of his colleague Mr. Gowlland.

Mr. BAKER BROWN could confirm the recommendation made by the author of the paper of opening freely that variety of external pile which was suddenly formed by the rupture of a hæmorrhoidal vein; the relief was instantaneous, and the danger of bleeding none. He had tried the plan of tying internal hæmorrhage, as recommended by Mr. Lane; and, although it possessed many advantages, still he had occasionally found considerable contraction of the anus after their removal. He preferred simply dividing the skin where it joins on to the mucous membrane, before applying the ligature; carrying out, in fact, the golden rule laid down by the late Mr. Copeland, "Cut skin, tie mucous membrane." Mr. Brown always used ligatures of twine in preference to silk. With respect to an observation made by the author, that there was more bleeding in women than in men, Mr. Brown explained that it arose frequently from a suppressed action of the menstrual discharge, or from the cessation of that discharge at certain changes of life. Mr. Brown could confirm the statement of the author as to the safety of all operations of this kind, as he had performed a large number, amounting to many hundreds, and had never met with a single death or a case of pyæmia. Mr. Brown was quite certain that the cases of death recorded by the author from tetanus were due to a peculiar epidemic at that time pervading the country, as several cases of tetanus arose, both in London and the country, from different operations. Mr. Brown considered that the paper was of the highest practical value, and contained all that it was desirable to know of the surgical treatment of hæmorrhoids.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Weeden Cooke, Dr. Sieveking, Dr. Hare, and Dr. Priestley.

Mr. LANE replied to the remarks made by the several speakers; and, with reference to Mr. Brown's observation, that he had found contraction of the anus follow the operation he had been recommending, said he believed that permanent contraction of the anus itself always depended upon the removal of too much of the surrounding skin, and that the contraction sometimes observed just within the rectum was in like manner the result of the removal of mucous membrane. This latter form of contraction, however, he had always found to disappear spontaneously, after the lapse of a few weeks. It depended not upon the mode of removal, but upon the

amount removed, which was often necessarily large. It was quite as likely to follow the one operation as the other; in fact, the worst cases he had seen had been after the old operation. He did not altogether concur in Mr. Copeland's maxim, always to cut skin and tie mucous membrane; he would always cut both, were it not for the danger of bleeding; and he thought the next best thing was to cut as much as was safe, and to tie the remainder. He believed it to be sound surgery never to remove tissues with a ligature, when it could be safely done by a cutting operation.

Medical News.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREW'S. List of gentlemen on whom the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred, in May 1861:—

Baller, Joseph H., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Penshurst, Kent
 Barratt, Edgar, L.R.C.P. Ed. (by exam.) & L.A.C., Brighton
 Belinfante, Simon, M.R.C.S., Holland
 Burrell, Lionel, L.A.C., Wesley, Bury St. Edmunds
 Cheetham, Joseph, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
 Colah, Muncherjee Beramjee, G.G.M.C., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.M., Bombay
 Coleman, Edmund Walter, M.R.C.S., London
 Connell, Robert, M.R.C.S. Ed., Glasgow
 Cuolahan, Hugh, L.R.C.S.I., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Bermondsey
 Dobson, Thomas, L.R.C.P. Ed., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Leeds
 Duffield, Thomas Orme, M.R.C.S., Gloucester
 Greenwell, Baker, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
 Harland, Henry, Fletching, Sussex
 Harrison, Charles, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Lincoln
 Hawkes, John, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Maidstone
 Hepworth, Alfred J. L., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Royal Artillery
 Jones, Edward, M.R.C.S., Dalgelley
 Kitching, John, M.R.C.S., York
 McConville, John, M.R.C.S. Ed., Glasgow
 Manning, Frederick N., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., York
 Marston, Charles H., M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P. (by exam.), Devizes
 Morris, Isaac, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Lewes, Sussex
 Neathy, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Barnsley
 Park, William, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Ulverston
 Pechey, William C., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Walthamstow
 Robertson, Alexander C., Lic. Fac. Phys. & Surg. Glasg., Army
 Seabrook, Cleophas W. S., Lic. Fac. Phys. & Surg. Glasg., London
 Seabrook, Thomas E. F., M.R.C.S., London
 Smith, David, M.R.C.S., Glasgow
 Solomon, Alexander, M.R.C.S. & L.M., Calcutta
 Spyers, Thomas Charles, M.R.C.S., Weybridge
 Stephens, Joseph, L.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Bayswater
 Telford, Thomas, L.R.C.S. Ed., Dublin
 Todd, John Markwell, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Bognor
 Wells, Samuel, Madras
 Willett, John, L.A.C., Great Budworth, Cheshire
 Young, George E., M.R.C.S., Mechlin, Belgium

The following gentlemen, having previously obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine, were candidates for Honours, and are placed alphabetically, as follows:—

First Class.
 Belinfante, Simon, University College
 Stephens, Joseph, Bishops Road, Bayswater

APPOINTMENTS.

*HAVILAND, Henry J., M.D., unanimously elected Physician to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

KIRKPATRICK, J. R., M.B., elected Assistant-Physician to the Lying-in Hospital, Rutland Square, Dublin.

*LANDSOWN, Francis P., Esq., elected Surgeon to the Bristol General Hospital.

ROYAL ARMY. The following appointments have been made:—

ARDEN, Surgeon W., 14th Light Dragoons, to be Surgeon-Major.
 SWETTENHAM, Surgeon W. K., M.D., 5th Foot, to be Surgeon-Major.
 WILLIAMSON, Staff-Surgeon G., M.D., to be Surgeon-Major.

ROYAL NAVY. The following appointment has been made:—

BRAKE, William N., Esq., Surgeon, to the *Challenger*.

VOLUNTEER CORPS. The following appointments have been made (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

BRAND, S. E., Esq., to be Assist.-Surgeon 12th Tower Hamlets R.V.
 CROSS, R., M.D., to be Assist.-Surg. Queen's (Westminster) R.V.

FAWSSETT, F., jun., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon Cambridgeshire Militia.

LEONARD, J., Esq., to be Assist.-Surg. Queen's (Westminster) R.V.

LOAN, W., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Fife R.V.

MOORE, O. A., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st West Riding R.V.

REEVE, J. F., M.D., to be Surgeon 6th Tower Hamlets R.V.

ROSS, F. D., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Royal Surrey Regiment of Militia.

SERCOMBE, E., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon St. George's R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

CAMPBELL, H., Esq., 4th Argyllshire A.V.

THOMAS, B., Esq., 5th Carmarthenshire R.V.

THOMSON, T., Esq., 5th Mid Lothian R.V.

BIRTHS.

MANN. On May 3rd, at Manchester, the wife of *Robert Manners Mann, Esq., of a son.

UNDERHILL. On April 21st, at Great Bridge, Tipton, the wife of *Thomas Underhill, Esq., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

*CLARK, Henry, Esq., at Bristol, aged 59, on May 10.

FITTON, William H., M.D., F.R.S., at 4, Sussex Gardens, aged 61, on May 13.

GRAHAM, William D., M.D., at Brighton, aged 40, on May 8.

INNES. On May 9th, at Edinburgh, Margaret C., second daughter of the late James Innes, Esq., Surgeon H.E.I.C.S., Bengal Establishment.

MACLISE, William, Esq., Staff-Surgeon, formerly of 90th Light Infantry and 22nd Foot, at Chelsea, aged 41, on May 9.

SLADEN, Ramsay, Esq., Physician-General Madras Army, at Madras, aged 78, on April 5.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST. The medical students in attendance have increased since last year from 95 to 116.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. George Rolleston, D.M., Fellow of Pembroke College, and Thomas King Chambers, D.M., Christ Church, have been nominated to the office of Examiners in the Faculty of Medicine of Oxford.

BEQUESTS. Mr. Clarke, late of Beaufoy Terrace, Maid Vale, has left a bequest of £200 to each of the following hospitals:—Charing-cross, King's College, St. Mark's, St. George's, St. Mary's, and the Royal Free.

DEATH AFTER USING A TURKISH BATH. A person is stated to have died lately, in Limerick, from the effects of a Turkish bath. From the account given it is evident, that the immediate cause of death was rupture of a blood-vessel—probably of an aneurism—the rupture being, we may fairly suppose, hastened by the effects of the bath.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN. The anniversary dinner of this institution was held on Wednesday last, at Willis's Rooms, under the presidency of Lord Taunton. About sixty gentlemen dined together. The subscriptions raised in the course of the evening amounted to near £1000. During the nine years in which the hospital has been opened, it has relieved 2662 in-patients and 68,143 out-patients.

PHYSICIANS IN THE UNITED STATES. According to the *Nashville Medical Journal*, the number of physicians in the United States, amounts to 40,481. In Massachusetts there is one physician to 605 inhabitants; in New York, one to 611; in Pennsylvania, one to 561; in North Carolina, one to 802; in Ohio, one to 465; in Maine, one to 884; and in California, one to 860. These facts may be of interest to recent graduates.

THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT IN AMERICA. Under the direction of some of the leading surgeons of New York the medical and surgical department, which has been sadly neglected, and the hospital department, are being rapidly systematised. The organisations for local charity connected with the various churches have also taken up the matter vigorously, preparing clothes for the troops; and, what is equally important, bandages, lint, medicines, and other things connected with the hospital department.

A MEDICAL ACT IN AMERICA. The Louisiana legislature, through the influence of Dr. J. H. Stevens, has recently passed "an act relative to practitioners of medicine," which forbids any one to practise medicine in that State, without making an affidavit before a Justice of the Peace, that he has received a degree of Doctor of Medicine from a regularly incorporated medical institution in America or Europe. The affidavit is to be recorded by the parish recorder; any person practising without having made such affidavit, is not permitted to collect fees, and is liable to a penalty of 20 dollars.

REGISTRATION IN IRELAND. The medical practitioners throughout Ireland are greatly dissatisfied with the clause in the Bill for the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, which requires them to furnish within a limited time certificates of the death of the parties on whom they may have been attending, imposing a penalty in case of neglect, without providing that they shall be paid anything for their trouble. This provision is not in the English Act; and the *Cork Reporter*, which takes up the cause of the doctors, asks, "Why is such a shameful and invidious distinction made?"

MILITIA SURGEONS. The following are the sums actually paid to militia surgeons and civil practitioners for the medical examination of recruits for the Household Brigade and Line, including the recruits for the Indian army, for the years 1857-58, 1858-59, 1859-60. In the first year, the sum was £5,120 9s. 6d., of which £2,036 3s. 6d. was for militia surgeons, and £3,084 6s. for civil practitioners. In the second year, the sum was £5,038 15s., of which £1,984 8s. 6d. was for militia surgeons, and £3,054 6s. 6d. for civil practitioners. In the third year, £3,400 4s.; £1,280 7s. 6d. being for militia surgeons, and £2,119 16s. 6d. for civil practitioners.

MEDICAL VACANCIES. The following appointments are vacant:—Physician to the Eastern Dispensary, Bath; Assistant-Physician to the Middlesex Hospital; Consulting Surgeon to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital; Surgeon to the St. Augustine County Prisons at Canterbury; Surgeon to the Islington Dispensary; Resident Medical Officer to the Metropolitan Free Hospital; Surgeon to the Broadlyst District, Devonshire. At the Royal Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport Hospital, there are vacancies for ten medical officers, eight for the borough of Portsmouth, and two for the town of Gosport and parish of Alverstoke.

BRITISH MUSEUM. The total number of additions made to the departments of zoology, geology, and mineralogy, during the past year, is above 45,250. Professor Owen observes, "Present knowledge of the manifold works of nature, and present opportunities of acquiring the rarer examples thereof, do not support the expectation that the need of increased space for their public exhibition will become less in a few years; the vast proportion of the unknown to be known in nature, and the diversity and extent of the unexplored parts of the world, rather impress the belief that future additions will accrue to the natural history departments in an equal or increasing ratio for some years to come."

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. On Wednesday afternoon, a meeting was held at Burlington House, for the presentation for degrees and honours. Earl Granville, the Chancellor of the University, presided. After the presentations, the Chairman addressed the meeting. In the course of his remarks, speaking on the subject of parliamentary representation, he said that, in the distribution of the four vacant seats in the House of Commons, an endeavour was to be made to assign one of them to the universities of Scotland. If such a privilege were conceded to them, he had no doubt that they would send a worthy representative; but, as these were English seats that had to be disposed of, he could not agree in

the claim that had been put forward; and certainly the University of London had a prior claim, which it would be becoming for it to press, if the other claim were persevered in.

MIDDLE CLASS ASYLUMS. It was urged at the last meeting of the Social Science Association by one of the best practical authorities upon this topic, Mr. Samuel Gaskell, now Commissioner in Lunacy, that most insufficient means of help are offered to the labouring and middle classes when attacked or threatened with disease of the mind. The law has already done much for the insane pauper, but in England and Wales for those who are not paupers, there is lamentable want of proper means of care and treatment. Mr. Gaskell believes that for the support of such asylums adequate funds could be derived from the patients, if the land and buildings were once furnished by the public, and there are few ways in which expenditure would lead to as much return of public good.

ST. MARY HALL, OXFORD. The Trustees of the Scholarships founded in this University by Thomas Dyke, formerly of Kingston, in the county of Somerset, Doctor of Medicine, are desirous of appointing a scholar therein. Candidates must be persons born in one of the counties of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall, or who, for the three years ending with the 31st day of December last, shall have been educated at any school or schools in those counties, or any or either of them, provided they have not attained the age of 20 years, or exceeded the fourth term from that of their matriculation inclusive, and provided it shall appear, to the satisfaction of the trustees, that they are in need of assistance to support them at the University. The Scholarship amounts to £45 per annum, and may be tenable for four years from the day of appointment inclusive, subject, as to residence within the Hall, to the regulations of the Hall in force for the time being with regard to the Undergraduate members thereof. Persons desirous of becoming candidates are required to send to James Randolph, of Milverton, in the county of Somerset.

A CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION. Muncherjee Beramjee Colah, a Parsee, a native of Bombay, M.R.C.S.E., came to London last June, with the especial object of competing for an appointment in Her Majesty's Indian medical service. In November it was announced that, in consequence of the amalgamation of the Indian and British forces, there would in future only be one examination for both services, and that out of the successful candidates a certain number would be appointed to the Indian forces; but in March he learned that, as natives of India of native parentage are deemed unfit for entering Her Majesty's general medical service, on account of their supposed physical inability to perform active duty in cold climates, such as Canada, he will not be allowed to offer himself for examination. He has urged that the Parsees of the present day live in all parts—New York, London, Liverpool, Manchester—and for fifty years have borne the winters of Canton and Shanghai, and that during the past winter he has been out in the performance of medical duties at all hours, night and day. But the War Secretary has felt obliged to reply that the opinion of those best competent to advise him on the subject confirms his own previous impression, as to the constitutional unfitness of the native and mixed races of India and other tropical countries to sustain for any length of time the climate of our northern regions. [Our readers may remember that this is a case similar to one to which we have already specially alluded in the JOURNAL. ED.]

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE. The Syndicate appointed by the Senate in March last recommend (amongst other things) the following alterations should be made in the stipends of Professors:—"They recommend that the

fee of £7 which has hitherto been paid by all candidates for the degree of M.B. on keeping their Act to the Regius Professor of Physic be discontinued; that a fee of £3 3s. be paid to the Professor by each student when his name is sent in for the first examination for the M.B. degree, and that a fee not exceeding £3 3s. be paid by every student who attends one or more courses of the Professor's lectures; and that, in lieu of the fee of £11 11s. heretofore paid to the Professor by candidates for the degree of M.D. on keeping their Act, a fee of £10 10s. be paid at that time to the Professor. As compensation for the loss which would result to the Regius Professor of Physic by the adoption of these rules, the Syndicate recommend that the sum of £50 per annum be paid to the Professor from the University chest. The Syndicate further recommend that the present Professor of Botany, Anatomy, Chemistry, and Mineralogy, and the Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy, should severally receive from the University chest, so long as they continue to hold their respective Professorships, such a sum as will augment their endowment stipends to £300 per annum each, provided that they severally declare in writing to the Vice-Chancellor their acceptance of the statute for the said Professorships, confirmed by the Queen in Council, April 16, 1861; it being at the same time declared to be the ordinary duty of the holders of the said Professorships to reside within the precincts of the University for eighteen weeks in every year between the 1st of October and the end of the following Easter Term."

VITAL STATISTICS OF SCOTLAND. The Scotch stand the educational test well; 88·6 per cent. of the men who married, and 77·2 of the women, signed their names. In England, in the same year, the proportions were 70·5 and 58·8. The deaths in the year (a year of more than average mortality) were only 206 in 10,000 persons, showing Scotland to be one of the very healthiest countries on the face of the globe. The annual percentage of deaths to population is stated thus:—Scotland, 2·06; England, 2·21; France, 2·36; Belgium, 2·52; Holland, 2·76; Prussia, 2·83; Spain, 2·85; Sardinia, 2·91. Some points of interest in relation to disease and mortality are noticed. Including the secondary diseases, twice as many women died from childbirth as in England. This is thought not much attributable to distance from medical aid, and the question is raised whether it is not owing to certain anatomical conformations. It may seem strange to speak of Scotland as a place for the consumptive, but Argyll and the Western Isles enjoy a remarkable immunity from consumption; those islands have a mild winter climate, with a more humid atmosphere than the mainland when the arid easterly winds prevail in spring. Of the influence of weather we learn that in Scotland, with the single exception of diarrhoeal complaints, all the ordinary epidemics of the country increase with the increase of cold, and it is the cold that kills. The diseases induced by heat seldom prevail anywhere until the mean monthly temperature rises above 60 deg., and that is a rare occurrence in Scotland.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON. The distribution of prizes in the faculty of medicine, took place on Monday. In the absence of the Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P., the chair was taken by Mr. Grote. The Dean of the Faculty, Professor Erichsen, read a report, from which it appeared that the condition of the medical school was in every way satisfactory. The number of pupils during the past session was 192; of these 54 were new entries. The conduct of the students had been most exemplary. The prizes were awarded and presented by the chairman in the following order:—*General Proficiency: Longridge Prize of £40, August 1860*—William J. Smith, of West Heath, Hants.—*Filliter Exhibition in Pathological Anatomy: £30*—Henry C. Bastian, of Falmouth.—*Liston Clinical Gold Medal (Surgery)*—William Hick-

man, of London.—*Surgery: Gold Medal:* John H. Hutchinson, of Catterick. *First Silver Medal:* Edwin First, of South Molton. *Second Silver Medal:* William H. Brotherton, of London. *Certificates of Honour:* 4. Henry Sutcliffe, of Heptonstall; 5 (equal). Thomas Griffiths, of Dryslwyn-fawr; David B. Thomas, of Newcastle-Emlyn; 6. T. Starkey Smith, of Warrington; 7 (equal). Thomas W. Bogg, of Louth; William T. Watson, of Tottenham; 8. Albert Southey, of Hampstead; 9. Edmund Venning, of Redruth; 10. Athendore de Negri, of London.—*Anatomy: Senior Class—Gold Medal:* William H. Griffin, of Banbury. *First Silver Medal:* William Saul, of Banbury. *Second Silver Medal:* William P. Bingley, of Sheffield. *Certificates of Honour:* 4. John Foster, of Huntingdon; 5. Edward C. Bury, of Mitchelstown, Ireland; 6. Alexander Bottle, of Dover. *Junior Class—Silver Medal:* Herbert Everitt, of Limpenhoe, Norfolk. *Certificates of Honour:* 2. Charles S. N. Atkinson, of Norwich; 3. Samuel Mills, of Huddersfield; 4. Charles Read, of Falmouth.—*Anatomy and Physiology: Gold Medal:* William H. Griffin. *First Silver Medal:* George Oliver, of Stockton-on-Tees. *Second Silver Medal:* John Harman, of Canterbury. *Certificates of Honour:* 4. William Sauai; 5 (equal). Palemon Best, of St. Ives, Cornwall; Alexander Bruce, of London; 6. William P. Rawlins, of Kentish Town.—*Chemistry: Gold Medal:* Thomas G. P. Hallett, of Martock. *First Silver Medal:* George E. Walker, of Wigan. *Second Silver Medal:* Julian A. M. Evans, of Pinner. *Certificates of Honour:* 4 (equal). William M. Rogers, of Mauritius; George W. Knox, of London; William P. Colchester, of Forest Hill; Edward F. Teschemacher, of Highbury; 5. William Spooner, of Southampton.—*Comparative Anatomy: Gold Medal:* Alexander Bruce.—*Medicine: Gold Medal:* John H. Hutchinson. *First Silver Medal:* John Dustan, of Jersey. *Second Silver Medal:* Thomas W. Bogg. *Certificates of Honour:* 4. Thomas Griffiths; 5. Edward T. Tibbits, of London; 6. T. S. Smith.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL. The anniversary dinner of this institution took place at the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, on Wednesday evening last. The chair was occupied by Lord Chelmsford, and there were about three hundred present. The Chairman, in proposing "Prosperity to King's College Hospital", stated that, little more than twenty years ago, King's College Hospital was established with the view of affording hospital accommodation to the densely inhabited district between Holborn and the Strand, the population of which in 1851 was estimated at 400,000, and which until 1839 was entirely dependent for medical advice and assistance upon a single dispensary. In 1840, the patients amounted to 4,834; but the number during the past year has reached 33,153. Since the establishment of the institution, 462,685 patients have been admitted to the benefits of the charity, of whom 26,464 were in-patients, 426,991 out-patients, and 9,234 poor married women attended in their confinement at their own homes. About 150 beds are in constant use, accommodating, on an average, between 1,400 and 1,500 patients annually. Of the in-patients, fully two-thirds were admitted free; while out of the half a million out-patients relieved since the establishment of the hospital, not more than 10,000 have presented governors' letters. This vast amount of relief afforded to sickness and suffering was administered at a cost of between £6,000 and £7,000 a-year; and the hospital, being unendowed, was entirely dependent for support on the annual donations of its governors and the voluntary contributions and bequests of benevolent persons. The hospital, he further observed, is an important medical school, and had afforded instruction to upwards of three thousand members of the profession. The nursing department, also, was admirably conducted. The nurses were all edu-

cated in St. John's House; they were of a totally different class to the persons who had been in past times alone thought fit for this duty. They were young, well instructed, and active, and understood their duties. They were superintended by ladies of birth and education, who lived in the hospital, and who devoted themselves entirely to this duty. In the course of the evening, subscriptions to the amount of above £3000 were announced, £1750 of which had been promised by persons unable to be present at the dinner.

DEATH OF DR. FITTON. We have to announce the death of one of the most early founders of the British School of Geology, at the advanced age of eighty-two, and in the possession of the highest scientific honours. For the last twenty years, he had retired from the active part which he once took in the scientific world. His early labours, commencing more than fifty years ago, on the geology of Hastings and its neighbourhood, and his general works on the strata intervening between the chalk and oolite in the south-east of England, although published at an early period in the history of the science, speedily raised him to an European reputation. In 1827 he was elected to the proud position of President of the Geological Society. His labours, although confined to subjects necessarily recondite and unpopular with the great mass of the public, were the source of much valuable information to the practical members of the science which now deplores his loss. In the year 1852 he was presented with the Wollaston Palladium medal by the Geological Society. As a contemporary of William Smith, Cuvier, and Humboldt, his labours were recognised universally on the Continent. As Buckland, speaking of Fitton and his contemporaries, graphically stated, "It has been our high privilege, which our successors cannot enjoy, to be the pioneers of a great and comprehensive master-science; and, wherever we have pushed forward our original discoveries, these discoveries will have indelibly inscribed our names on the annals of the physical history of the globe."

MILITARY ENTHUSIASM IN AMERICA. Within the past week New York has been converted into a vast military camp. The preparations for war during this short period are incredible in extent and completeness. Every class, profession, and trade, is animated by one impulse, viz. effective preparation for the support of government. The lawyers even have united to form a regiment. The medical profession contributes liberally to the appointments of the staff of officers of the several regiments. Among the prominent members of our profession who have already enlisted we may mention Prof. J. C. Dalton, Surgeon to the 7th Regiment, and Dr. J. W. S. Gouley, Surgeon to the First Regiment of Zouaves. Indeed, there is reason to fear that our hospitals and public charities will be deprived of many of their resident medical officers, so great is the anxiety to enlist. The commissioners of public charities and correction having consented to reserve the places of the medical staff who might desire to enter the army, several have availed themselves of the opportunity and joined the volunteer regiments. The enlistment of Dr. S. Burnett Tuthill, as surgeon to the reinforcement of the Seventh Regiment, forcibly illustrates the spirit of the medical profession, and of every citizen. He was waked at an early hour in the morning by a messenger from the officer of the regiment, requesting his enlistment and immediate presence in their ranks. He instantly, and without previous reflection, obeyed the summons, and departed immediately to the seat of war. (*American Med. Times.*)

THE ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY. The annual meeting of the Ethnological Society was held on Wednesday afternoon, at 4, St. Martin's Place. The chair was occupied by Mr. John Crawford, F.R.S., the President.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

At a Public Meeting of the Metropolitan Poor-law Medical Officers, held May 10th, 1861, at the Rooms of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, 37, Soho Square, it was unanimously resolved to adopt, as the embodiment of their collective opinions, the following statement (here condensed), submitted to them by their Committee. It was also further resolved, that all the Union medical officers should, through the several weekly medical journals, be solicited to forward, *within the course of one week*, to the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Robert Fowler, 145, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C., any facts within their respective experience bearing on the suggestions of such statement, with a view to the said facts being laid as evidence before the Parliamentary Poor-law Committee.

The Committee of the Metropolitan Poor-law Medical Officers, having maturely considered the subject of Poor-law Medical Relief, in so far as it affects the position of the medical officers and the interests of the sick poor, are of opinion that the present system of administration of medical relief requires amendment.

They submit the following suggestions as indicating the defects of the system, and the means for remedying the same; and recommend that evidence of as comprehensive a nature as possible be solicited from the Poor-law medical officers, having reference to such suggestions, which evidence may be ultimately submitted to the Parliamentary Poor-law Committee:—

A. *As Regards the Sick Poor.* 1. That it is a source of injury to the poor, and a false economy to the ratepayers, for Poor-law Guardians to make cheapness a ruling guide in their election of medical officer.

2. That, in order to insure to the sick poor the full benefit of medical aid, the appointment of the Poor-law medical officer should be, *in all cases*, made permanent.

3. That, for the same object, the medical officer of a district should have the power, in common with the medical officer of a workhouse, of ordering, in writing, whatever necessary diet or clothing he may think required for any pauper under his care, and that it should be the duty of the relieving-officer to obey such order.

4. That, in some rural districts, the distance between the poor and the relieving officer, or between the relieving officer and the medical officer, is too great; thereby causing the poor to travel an unnecessarily long distance for medical aid. The remedies for this are two, viz., 1. Either to extend the power of giving orders to other parochial officials besides the relieving officer; 2. Or by arranging that the relieving officer shall live, *whenever such is practicable*, within one mile of the residence of the medical officer.

B. *As Regards the Medical Officer.* 1. In common fairness to the medical officer, his appointment should be made, *in all cases*, permanent.

2. That the present system of remuneration of the medical officer is without any uniformity, equality, or any definite principle; some officers being paid by a fixed salary and extras, some by a fixed salary without extras, and a small number by the case; but the great majority are paid by a fixed salary, which usually bears no relative proportion to the amount of work performed. That the mode of payment by a gross fixed salary admits of the infliction of a great injustice on the medical officer, by the indiscriminate issue of orders which takes place.

3. That, in the great majority of instances the remuneration of the medical officer is inadequate for the services performed.

4. That the only just and equitable mode of payment is by a certain fixed sum per case, in accordance with the recommendation of the Poor-law Commissioners in their minute dated June 6th, 1839.

5. That, at a minimum computation, no less a sum than 2s. 6d. per case in the metropolis, and than 5s. in the provinces, can compensate the medical officer for his services.

6. That the medical officer of a workhouse should be paid to the same extent, both with reference to salary and to vaccination fees and other extras, as the district medical officer.

7. That the list of "operations and services" detailed in Art. 177 of the General Council Order requires augmentation.

8. That the medical officers, in consideration of the vast and important duties performed by them, the discomfort and difficulty, and the great personal risk of life to which the performance of those duties exposes them, together with the minimum remuneration which they now seek, are fairly entitled to a superannuation allowance, in common with the members of the civil service.

9. That, in order to facilitate the carrying out of the foregoing suggestions and recommendations, it is highly necessary that the powers of the Poor-law Board be consolidated and extended, especially those relating to the Poor-law medical officers and the sick poor.

Varieties.

METEOROLOGY AND ILLUMINATION. It appears that the difference in the illuminating power of the same gas may vary 20 per cent., when tested at the highest and at the lowest points of the barometrical range in this country, from the effect of the rarefaction of the air alone, without taking into consideration the different densities of the gas at the opposite degrees of pressure.

A NEW FOOD. "Hippopotami," writes Dr. Livingstone, "are good food, half beef and half pork, and lots of fat, that serves as butter. By the way, our good friend, Professor Owen, and the gastronomic committee, will stand very much in their own light if the she-giraffes die a natural death. If they praised the eland so, a dinner off she-giraffe will leave them all lying on their backs."

MORTALITY OF MONTREAL. The rate of mortality of Montreal, in 1860, was 1 in 32 of its inhabitants; this is a reduction of 25 per cent. in fourteen years; the death-rate being, in 1846, 1 to every 23-60. During that period the population of the city has doubled—thus proving, contrary to our City Inspector, that a city may improve in health, though its population rapidly increases.

THE PRICE OF A BROKEN COLLAR-BONE. Dr. Hingston, of Montreal, recently recovered 600 dollars from the corporation of that city for a fracture of his clavicle, received in a fall from his horse, owing to a defective bridge. This sum he has generously appropriated as follows: 50 dollars to the Natural History Society; 50 dollars to the Mechanics' Institute; and the balance to the establishment of a Free Hospital for Children.

AMERICAN ARMY MEDICAL PAY. The annual salary of the Surgeon-General is three thousand dollars, with fuel and quarters; monthly pay of surgeons of ten years service in that grade, two hundred dollars; a surgeon of less time service, one hundred and sixty-two dollars; assistant-surgeon of ten years service, one hundred and fifty dollars; assistant-surgeon of five years service, one hundred and thirty dollars; and four assistants of less than five years service, one hundred and ten dollars.

A SAVOURY FOOD. An eloquent Frenchman has observed: "This much is certain, that the oyster supplies an aliment which unites all the properties that are most precious for food. Its flesh is sweet, fine, and delicate ;

it has savour enough to please the taste, not enough to excite or cloy it, or reach that frightful limit of the gastronomer—*too much!* It lends itself, moreover, through a quality peculiar to it, to gastric and intestinal absorption. Mingling easily with the other aliments, and assimilating itself without difficulty with the juices of the stomach, it assists the digestive functions. Excepting bread, there is no alimentary substance that does not at one time or another cause indigestion, but oysters never!"

A CLIMBING FISH. At the last meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, held Jan. 2nd, Dr. Bryant presented, in the name of Mr. Henry Morse, two specimens of the siluroid genus *Callichthys*, a fish from Surinam, which is said to climb trees. Professor Agassiz and Dr. Pickering mentioned the genera *periophthalmus*, *anabas*, and *gobiesox*, which have the property of existing a considerable time out of water, and might ascend the trunks of trees inclining into the water. Dr. Pickering observed that he had found *gobiesox* in Peru forty feet above the water on shore, and had seen *periophthalmus* hopping about over the mud in the manner of frogs.

THE DETECTION OF ALUM IN BREAD. This problem is one of far more difficulty than is generally imagined, and it is, doubtless, to this fact that the discordant results obtained by the different analysts are to be attributed; one stating that out of sixty-four samples of bread purchased at various shops in poor neighbourhoods at the East of London, where, if anywhere, adulteration would be practised in the most barefaced manner, not a single one was found to contain alum; whilst another analyst, with equal positiveness, mentions the name of a baker who is, in his opinion, almost the only person in a large district at the West End of London who sells unadulterated bread, and proceeds to state that more than 87 per cent. of the bread in London is adulterated. My attention was first drawn to this subject by the fact that a sample of bread which was known to be entirely free from adulteration had been pronounced by a somewhat experienced analyst as being largely adulterated with alum. (*Mr. Crookes.*)

VACCINATION IN CHINA. Vaccination was introduced among the Chinese into Canton, by Dr. Pearson, about the year 1805. Owing to the persevering efforts of this gentleman, continued through many years, the inestimable blessings of this preventative are fully known to the Chinese, and his name is worthy of little less honour than that of the immortal Jenner, who first made it known to the world. Small-pox is almost an annual epidemic in China, and, without the aid of government or any public institutions, it is not strange that vaccination is neglected by multitudes in so vast a population. Those who practise vaccination are not able to preserve the virus, and they depend for fresh supplies brought from England. It was with the design of supplying these deficiencies that the department was established; and it is hoped that, while gratuitous vaccination is offered to the poor, the hospital will be a source from which to supply virus at all times to all parts of the south of China. A tract on the subject has been prepared and printed, in which directions are given for preserving the scab and vaccination from it. This is one of the easiest modes of preserving the virus in a warm climate, but is not known to the Chinese. (*Dr. Kerr.*)

PUSHING A PERIWINKLE TO ITS UTMOST POSSIBILITIES. The student of history follows with intense interest the march of a conqueror or the migrations of a nation. The traveller traces with almost breathless delight every step of the progress of some mighty hero of ancient days. I have had my share of the pleasure when tracking the course of Alexander and his armies in Pisidia, and determining mile by mile the route of

Manlius through Milyas, on ground to the modern geographer wholly new. Yet, absurd as it may seem to those who have not thought of such things before, there is a deeper interest in the march of a periwinkle and the progress of a limpet. It is easier to understand how the son of Philip made his way safely through the sea on his famous march from Phaselis, than to comprehend how the larva of a *patella* crossed the fathomless gulf between Finmark and Greenland. It is a strong saying, but not without a meaning, that the existence of Alexander may have been determined by the migration of a shell-fish. If I am right in my interpretation of the reason why we find the same species of periwinkle in Greenland and along the coast of Labrador that lives now on the shores of Nordland and Finmark—in the unravelling of the cause and means of its wanderings we acquire a clue to the origin of the peculiar conformation of the world as it is, and to the disposition of those geographical arrangements upon which the development of nations and character of men in a great measure depend. (*E. Forbes.*)

THE TEMPERATURE OF THE EARTH'S CRUST. At a recent meeting of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society a paper was read by Mr. W. Fairbairn, LL.D., "On the Temperature of the Earth's Crust, as exhibited by Thermometrical Observations obtained during the sinking of the Deep Mine at Dukinfield." He says:—"During the prosecution of researches on the conductivity and fusion of various substances, an opportunity occurred of ascertaining by direct experiments, under favourable circumstances, the increase of temperature in the crust of the earth. This was obtained by means of thermometers placed in bore-holes, at various depths, during the sinking of one of the deepest mines in England—namely, the coal mine belonging to Mr. F. D. Astley, at Dukinfield, which has been sunk to a depth of 700 yards. The increase of temperature in descending shown by these observations is irregular; nor is this to be wondered at if we consider the difficulties of the inquiry, and the resources of error in assuming the temperature of a single bore-hole as the mean temperature of the stratum. At the same time, it is not probable that the temperature in the mine-shaft influenced the results. The rate of increase has been shown in previous experiments to be directly as the depth, and this is confirmed by these experiments. The amount of increase is from 51 deg. F. to 57½ deg., as the depth increases from 5½ deg. to 231 yards, or 1 deg. in 99 feet; but, in this case, the higher temperature is not very accurately determined. From 231 to 685 yards, the temperature increases from 57½ deg. F. to 75½ deg. This is a mean increase of 1 deg. in 76·8 feet, which does not widely differ from the results of other observers. Walferdin and Arago found an increase of 1 deg. in 59 feet; at Rehme, in an Artesian well, 760 yards deep, the increase was 1 deg. in 54·7 feet; De La Rive and Marcet found an increase of 1 deg. in 51 feet at Geneva. Other experiments have given 1 deg. in 71 feet. The observations are affected by the varying conductivity of the rocks, and by the percolation of water." The author has exhibited upon a diagram, in which the ordinates are depths and the abscissae temperatures, the results obtained between the depths of 231 and 717 yards. The strata of the mine are also shown in section. Additional to these, the author gives a table of similar results in another pit at the same colliery, taken between the depths of 167½ and 467 yards, and showing an increase of temperature of 1 deg. in 106 feet of descent. Assuming, as an hypothesis, that the law thus found for a depth of 790 yards continues to operate at greater depths, we arrive at the conclusion that at 2½ miles from the surface a temperature of 212 deg. would be reached, and at 40 miles a temperature of 3,000 deg., which we may suppose sufficient to melt the hardest rock.

ABUSE OF ABSINTHE BY THE FRENCH. The ravages committed in the army and colonists of Algeria by the abuse of this exciting liquor have long been subject of the most earnest reports from the various administrators of the colony. In 1857, Marshal Randon, by a peremptory order, forbade the "mercantiles" to follow the army in its expedition against the Kabyles. The consequence of the order became visible at once in the slackening of the manufacture of absinthe. The most satisfactory results in point of military hygiene were obtained during this campaign, but as soon as the expedition returned to Algiers the old symptoms reappeared, and the hospitals became once more crowded with bleary-eyed idiots waiting to be conveyed home to their friends. The detestable adulteration of the liquor by sulphate of copper is so well-known in the army that it is called familiarly *infusion de gros sous*, and yet even this knowledge is not sufficient to defer the soldiers from seeking the forgetfulness it procures. At the beginning of last year a great sensation was produced in Paris by the mortality which carried off in a short time, with every symptom of poisoning, a considerable number of men belonging to the first regiment of dragoons. Every research has been made to discover the cause, when the doctors determined to have the absinthe of the canteens submitted to examination. The presence of a large proportion of sulphate of copper was detected. By order of the colonel, and with solemn ceremony, in presence of the whole troop, the casks containing the liquid were stove in, and their contents swept into the gutter. Health was restored after this execution, which served as a lesson both to the consumer and the manufacturer—for the latter is said to substitute chloride of antimony, a far more dangerous poison, and much more difficult of detection than the sulphate of copper.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.
TUESDAY. Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY.....St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1:30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY. Westminster Ophthalmic, 1:30 P.M.
SATURDAY..... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1:30 P.M.—King's College, 1:30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY. Pathological, 8 P.M.—Statistical.
WEDNESDAY. Society of Arts, 8 P.M.—Geological.
FRIDAY. Linnæan (Anniversary).—Royal Institution.
SATURDAY. Royal Botanical.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON.—MAY 11TH, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Boys.. 972	Deaths.
	Girls.. 876	1848 1240
During week.....		
Average of corresponding weeks 1861-60	1655	1202
Barometer:		
Highest (Sun.) 30.149; lowest (Sat.) 29.441; mean 29.739.		
Thermometer:		
Highest in sun—extremes (Th.) 103.8 degs.; (Sat.) 50 degs.		
In shade—highest (Th.) 56.2 degrees; lowest (Th.) 33.4 degrees.		
Mean—43.4 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—8.3 degs.		
Range—during week, 22.8 degrees; mean daily, 15.3 degrees.		
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 79.		
Mean direction of wind, N.N.E.—Rain in inches, 1.13.		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

A CURE FOR HOMŒOPATHIC CONSULTATIONS.—A correspondent writes, that he and his fellow-townsmen have adopted the following mode of meeting this irregular practice. "An eminent surgeon was warned, that unless he was willing to discontinue meeting homœopaths, the medical men of this neighbourhood would cease to recommend him in consultation. He took time to consider, and declined to comply. I do not think he has been in our district since. If such a plan were generally followed, we should hear no more of such disgraceful conduct."

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE.—In returning thanks to the Governors for unanimously electing him to the office of Physician at this Hospital, Dr. Haviland stated, as the result of his canvass, that he could securely reckon upon the support of four hundred out of the four hundred and fifty Governors who are entitled to vote. Thus Dr. Bayes, the homœopath, who had announced his intention of contesting the election, has not gained much by his move. On the contrary, by endeavouring to thrust himself into a position he is totally unfitted to occupy, he must have opened the eyes even of his most ardent supporters, who, it is to be hoped, will for the future seek medical aid from a purer and more reliable source.

PRESCRIBING DRUGGISTS.—A correspondent writes: "A retired druggist buys an estate, and comes to reside in the country; and, having opened a shop or surgery, without a letter indicating what he professes, he presumes to prescribe for all cases of disease, both amongst the poor, and the opulent farmers (some of whom like cheap physic). You very justly remark, that our Registrar has full power to persecute the legitimate practitioner, but none whatever to protect him; and, if we must wait until physical science is better known amongst the million, we should have to live until two or three generations had passed away, before these things would be corrected from that cause."

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—

15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., General Secretary.

Worcester, May 1861.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—MR. JONATHAN HUTCHINSON; DR. W. BUDD; DR. WADHAM; REV. J. M'BAN; THE SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE; DR. J. M. BRYAN; MR. A. FLEISCHMANN; THE SECRETARY OF THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTS; DR. DAY; DR. SKINNER; MR. J. J. MURRAY; DR. H. WEBER; DR. FOWLER; MR. P. MARTIN; MR. A. B. STEELE; MR. WHITWELL; MR. C. H. ROPER; DR. MUNROE; MR. T. O'CONNOR; MR. C. SHAW; DR. JAMES RUSSELL; MR. GAY; MR. WEBBER; and DR. WHYTEHEAD.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. The Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of London; compiled from the Annals of the College, and from other Authentic Sources. By William Munk, M.D. Vol. I. 1518 to 1700. London: 1861.